

# Ride 548 Report – 21 October 2018

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## Tied Up in Knots Ride!

### Hares: Knobby Boy Scout & Rough Sex

“Definitely a contender for Ride of the Year!” – The Hares

Two dozen of Singapore’s Finest (mountain bikers) showed up on a lovely Sunday morning at Cleantech Heights within the NTU campus, perhaps wondering what Knobby Boy Scout and Rough Sex had up their sleeves. At 9:55 AM, Knobby rode up to announce that they were about to be pushed to their limits with a long and fast ride. It would remain to be seen if they would be ‘tied up in knots’ as the Webmaster had predicted in naming the ride. Moments before the pack set off, Knobby announced that if any Hasher were to find his missing Cat Eye odometer he or she would receive a free pizza lunch that day. With that incentive to spur them on, our lycra-clad weekend warriors set off at a furious pace.

The trail that day saw them make a right turn upon leaving the NTU campus and heading along some sidewalks to reach a park and grassy field that in turn led to an even more expansive field. The pack was eventually brought to Jurong Road, where they cycled a few kilometres along the paved road until they were brought inside a bit of singletrack that meandered through some rustic kampong farms alongside the Jurong Road Heavy Vehicle Carpark. In an ever-developing Singapore, finding some accessible off-road bits in the area proved harder than when we last cycled there on a ride led by Bunny Tool. Every month means more metal enclosures being put up that prevent access to construction sites.

The cyclists proceeded onto a lengthy section along a canal to eventually reach the popular off-road track around Jalan Lam Sam. The Hares had some fun in laying a T-check that drew the pack in one direction before they were forced to turn around and head to the other half of Jalan Lam Sam. A few hills were devised to tire out the pack and let them enjoy the off-road terrain before it is replaced by Tengah Town in the near future, and its development will mean one less choice spot for the Singapore Bike Hash to explore. When I checked online, I read that Tengah Town is planned to eventually be the size of Bishan.

Knobby Boy Scout was waiting for the FRB’s at the gate by the heavy vehicle car park, and there was a brief recon to allow most of the riders to reassemble before proceeding on. The group was now about halfway through their two-hour odyssey, and all was good – they had managed to cover all of the trail and hadn’t missed any bits, either! Thankfully, the weather stayed clear that weekend (at least until we finished the ride) and the Hares were spared the antics of having to organize a led-ride in the rain. It was rumoured that Copy Cat and Old Worn Stump’s son, Edward (who has not one but two vaguely suggestive Hash names) were still on the trail, so Knobby stayed back another 15-20 minutes at the gate, hoping to catch a glimpse of these two missing riders. With no sign of them on the horizon, the Scribe carried on with his mission. Rough Sex was to collect all of the paper from the starting point

through Jalan Lam Sam, while Knobby would gather the remainder from the second leg of the ride.

The second half included the steep hill close to Farmart, and some narrow paths along small canals where half of the country's O Bikes have been deposited. For a change of pace, the Hares set some trail that had the pack ride around the perimeter of what is known as Sungei Tengah Lodge Megadorm. This is a massive housing complex, and I wondered if the workers within were startled to see some crazy cyclists going nowhere in particular...

All was going well and – with the exception of some trail markings that had been 'animated' by a passer-by with a sense of humour – there were no lost cyclists that I came across as I made my way home. Eventually I heard someone calling out behind me, only to find Slippery Nipples and Old Worn Stump whining about a long T-check along Old Chua Chu Kang Road that had not been broken by the FRB's. Never mind, everything worked out well as we pedalled a few more kilometres to reach the sanctuary of Cleantech Heights. In total, the ride came in around 25km, but this is merely a guess on the Scribe's part since his Cat Eye was never recovered in the end. The Hares laid the entire ride old-school style, with neither GPS nor an odometer to guide them. Still, they managed to create a circular route that included an extension through Lim Chu Kang for those who opted for the 'long' ride.

As the Hares had hoped, everyone had reached Home within a few minutes of noon, and the Circle was called to order – not by Copy Cat or Wet Beaver, but by our Spandex fashion innovator, Slippery Nipples. There was some confusion as our stand-in GM was asked to wait momentarily for Rough Sex to ride a kilometre to reach us, and you could see his impatience rising by the second. Moments later, Rough Sex pedalled in to a round of applause and the Hares took their down-downs with a weary smile. *Here's to the Hares, they're true blue, they are bastards through and through, they are piss-pots so they say, tried to go to Heaven but they went the other way. Drink it down, down, down, down, down...*

As our stand-in GM asked everyone what they thought of the ride, the responses went from "excellent" to "wrong part of the country..." with typical Hash aplomb. Slippery Nipples then began a countdown from 10 to 1 that he used on most every charge to keep things moving. In fact, after giving the Hares a note, he immediately asked, "Okay, next ride?" Wet Beaver had to remind him to give a few more charges, which he only reluctantly agreed to do.

Hash Brew (Old Worn Stump) was called in on a Crash of the Day charge. It seems that in his exuberance to try out the fat tire bike that Ray had brought with him, Old Worn Stump went down like a ton of bricks before the ride even got underway. Let's give our French friend a note!

Wet Beaver called in Edward (he of two Hash names) for a charge of being "lost in space." Apparently our young rider followed some red and white tape that was part of a construction site and ended up on a course of his own design, but he made it back to the Circle in the end with a smile on his face. For those who are keen to know, Edward's Hash names are "Big Stick" and "Balls of Steel." We won't ask how he was given those names or

who gave them to him, but we can take a vote at a future Circle to see which of these will become his official Hash name at SBH (too confusing to have two Hash names, mate!).

Too Easy called in the Hares for some directional mismanagement, because a number of the chalk marks were abstract art that pointed in many directions at once. They looked like some Keith Haring artwork rather than the Hash arrows that we're used to. This taught me not to leave a sliver of chalk on the sidewalk for members of the public to create ad-hoc directions... but at least someone out there has a sense of humour to rival the Hashers. The Scribe's attempt to explain the situation was only met with a rousing chant of *Bullshit, bullshit, it all sounds like bullshit to me, to me... bullshit, bullshit, it all sounds like bullshit to me! Drink it down, down, down, down, down...*

Returnee Ray was called in for a note. Our American friend showed up that morning on a fat tire bike that brought a few smiles to the group. Long Klong Silver suggested that he should be named Pugsley (of Addams Family fame) because there is a fat tire bike on the market called the Pugsley and it made for a bit of insider humour. Wet Beaver reminded us that as the group circled across a vast open field, Ray remarked that he was "floating" on the grass. In a lightbulb moment, she suggested the Hash name of Floater. Slippery Nipples took a vote and Floater seemed to have the edge, but our GM for the day preferred to leave the voting for another time. Wet Beaver then led a chorus of *Here's to Floater, he's true blue, he's a bastard through and through, he's a piss-pot so they say, tried to go to Heaven but he went the other way. Drink it down, down, down, down, down...*

The November 11<sup>th</sup> ride was announced, but best to check out the SBH website for details about this exciting Malaysian ride in our favourite area of Plentong. Be sure to show up early because it will be a led ride and latecomers may not find trail markings to follow...

Copy Cat and Goes Both Ways announced their Social Event at 13% Wine Bar at Aliwal Street, and for those of us who attended, it was another fantastic evening of wine and chat and wine and food... I had a great time and had a hangover to prove it the next morning, as many of us did. Let's give a round of thanks to our Social Organizer, Goes Both Ways, for finding excellent venues for our gatherings. Deviant got the award for being most glamorous with a stylish haircut and in high heels, while her other half was decidedly more casual in black togs.

There was final discussion about the cost for lunch that day, as Knobby declared it to be \$10 per head for pizza and a few drinks. Fat Crashing Bastard was concerned that it would not be 'value-for-money' if he only had one slice for \$10, but he needn't have worried as everyone ate their fill of Canadian 2-For-1 Pizza and there was even some leftovers to be enjoyed by Hash Brew's family that evening. The pizza delivery proved to be an unexpected success, because Hash Brew had brought his large picnic table and at least 15 of us stayed back for food and laughter. And with our appetites sated, thus ended another outing of the Singapore Bike Hash.

Until the next ride, on on!

Scribed by: Knobby Boy Scout

